



Blue Oak
Quercus douglasii



Coast Live Oak
Quercus agrifolia
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Oak means any species in the genus *Quercus*. **Oak woodlands** means an oak stand with a greater than 10 percent canopy cover or that may have historically supported greater than 10 percent canopy cover.
- CA Oak Woodlands Conservation Act

GOAL

3

MAINTAIN THE ACREAGE OF NATIVE WOODLANDS, FORESTS, AND TREES AT 2008 LEVELS.

Policy BR 3.1 Native Tree Protection

Protect native and biologically valuable trees, oak woodlands, trees with historical significance, and forest habitats to the maximum extent feasible. (Refer to Figure BR-3 for a distribution of hardwood resources in the county.)

↓ **Implementation Strategy BR 3.1.1 Prepare countywide native tree protection ordinance using information obtained from San Luis Obispo County Vegetation Mapping Project.**

Using information obtained from the San Luis Obispo County Vegetation Mapping Project, develop a countywide native tree protection ordinance and/or standards to avoid disturbance of protected trees, forests, woodlands, and other significant arboreal resources and to identify required replacement ratios and replanting standards. Prepare and release a public review draft ordinance by the end of 2012.

Policy BR 3.2 Protection of Native Trees in New Development

Require proposed discretionary development and land divisions to avoid damage to native trees (e.g., Monterey Pines, oaks) through setbacks, clustering, or other appropriate measures. When avoidance is not feasible, require mitigation measures.

↓ **Implementation Strategy BR 3.2.1 Tree replacement in new development**

If avoidance of damage to native specimen trees is not feasible in discretionary land use permits and land divisions, require mitigation measures such as tree replacement using native stock at specified ratios, replanting plans, reseeding disturbed open areas with native, drought, and fire resistant species. A long-term monitoring plan will also be required.

Policy BR 3.3 Oak Woodland Preservation

Maintain and improve oak woodland habitat to provide for slope stabilization, soil protection, species diversity, and wildlife habitat.



GOAL

4

**THE NATURAL STRUCTURE AND
FUNCTION OF STREAMS AND RIPARIAN
HABITAT WILL BE PROTECTED AND
RESTORED.**

Riparian Habitat is characterized by vegetated areas along bodies of freshwater including streams, lakes and rivers.

Riparian corridors are highly favorable for wildlife. They are the areas with the most water and the densest plant cover, providing predator protection, shade, breeding and nesting areas, and food sources.

Policy BR 4.1 Protect Stream Resources

Protect streams and riparian vegetation to preserve water quality and flood control functions and associated fish and wildlife habitat.

↓ ***Implementation Strategy BR 4.1.1 Approach to stream protection***

- a. Require preservation of natural streams and associated riparian vegetation in an undisturbed state to the greatest extent feasible in order to protect banks from erosion, enhance wildlife passageways, and provide natural greenbelts.
- b. Include stream and riparian corridors as part of a network of wildlife corridors.
- c. Protect stream corridors and setback areas through easements or dedications.
- d. Protect the needs of wildlife when watercourse alteration is undertaken, explore alternatives to alteration, and assure that stream diversion structures protect habitats.

↓ ***Implementation Strategy BR 4.1.2 Salinas River Watershed Plan***

Prepare, with stakeholders (e.g. RCD, property owners, and other agencies), a Salinas River Watershed Plan that focuses on protection and restoration of riparian corridors, endangered species protection, appropriate areas for siting and types of new development. Coordinate plan development with development of the County's Aggregate Materials Management Plan (refer to Implementation Strategy MN 2.1.2).



↓ **Implementation Strategy BR 4.8.2 Pet waste in County facilities**

Provide receptacles for disposal and pickup of pet waste in County recreation areas.

Policy BR 4.9 Pesticide Reduction

Encourage ~~agriculturalists and other~~ all landowners and pesticide applicators to consult with agencies such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.C. Cooperative Extension, and Resource Conservation Districts to 1) reduce pesticide use, explore use of integrated pest management, 2) consider environmental impacts in choosing pesticides, and 3) otherwise reduce contamination of surface water and groundwater from pesticides.

Policy BR 4.10 Vector Control

Control vectors to prevent disease problems in keeping with good conservation principles. Vector control practices should minimize disturbance of the environment.

GOAL

5

WETLANDS WILL BE PRESERVED, ENHANCED, AND RESTORED.

The following policies and implementation strategies do not apply within the coastal zone, because the Local Coastal Program already includes detailed policies and standards to protect wetlands.

Policy BR 5.1 Protect Wetlands

Require development to avoid wetlands and provide upland buffers.

↓ **Implementation Strategy BR 5.1.1 Wetland delineations for new development**

Require development applications to include wetland delineation for sites with jurisdictional wetlands and wetlands that support rare, threatened, or endangered species and to demonstrate compliance with these wetlands policies, standards, and criteria, and with state and federal regulations.

Wetlands are those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. –Clean Water Act



loss of wetlands, consistent with state and federal regulations and this Element.

↓ **Implementation Strategy BR 5.2.1 Identify wetlands and minimize impacts**

For projects subject to discretionary review: 1) require a report from a qualified biologist to determine the extent of wetlands, potential impacts of the project and recommended mitigation measures, and 2) minimize impacts to wetlands through measures such as a clustering development, low impact development (LID) and use of vegetated swales.

Policy BR 5.3 Wetland Conversion

Avoid the conversion of wetlands, including vernal pools, to agricultural uses, except where grazing may improve the health and function of those wetlands. Where grazing occurs in and around wetlands and vernal pools, encourage grazing management that improves the health and function of those wetlands.

Policy BR 5.4 Wetlands on Agricultural Lands

Support use of best management practices and proper range uses to minimize impacts to wetlands on agricultural lands.

↓ **Implementation Strategy BR 5.4.1 RCD wetland programs for landowners**

Encourage landowners to use programs offered by Resource Conservation Districts and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to preserve wetlands and riparian vegetation.

GOAL

6

**THE COUNTY'S FISHERIES AND
AQUATIC HABITATS WILL BE
PRESERVED AND IMPROVED.**

Policy BR 6.1 Avoid Impacts to Fisheries

Require all proposed discretionary land use projects and land divisions to avoid impacts to freshwater and saltwater fisheries and wildlife habitat to the maximum extent feasible. When avoidance is not feasible, offset potential losses of fisheries and wildlife.



Interpretive Display for Listed Species

